CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for intra-oral stimulation of the trigeminal nerve, said apparatus comprising:

an energy source that imparts energy to a tooth to stimulate the trigeminal nerve; and

an attachment portion to secure said energy source in a mouth in proximity to the tooth.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:

said energy source comprises a transducer; and

said apparatus further comprises an oscillator coupled to said transducer to provide an electrical signal to said transducer.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said transducer comprises a wire coil.

4. The apparatus of Claim 2, said apparatus further including a timer that automatically discontinues provision of said electrical signal to said transducer following a selected interval of provision of said electrical signal.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1, said attachment portion comprising:

a first leg to which said energy source is attached;

a second leg; and

a bridge portion spanning a width of the tooth to link said first leg and said second leg.

6. The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said bridge portion includes at least one wire to secure the apparatus about a crown of the tooth.

7. The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said bridge portion covers a crown of the tooth.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said attachment portion is at least partially formed of acrylic.

9. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said attachment portion removably secures said electrical transducer in contact with enamel of the tooth.

10. A method of stimulating the trigeminal nerve, said method comprising:

within a mouth, removably securing an energy source in proximity to a tooth; and

imparting energy to enamel of the tooth to stimulate the trigeminal nerve utilizing the energy source.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said energy source comprises a transducer, said method further comprising coupling the transducer to an oscillator that provides an electrical signal to the transducer.

12. The method of Claim 10, wherein said step of imparting energy to enamel of a tooth comprises imparting electromagnetic energy to the enamel of the tooth.

13. The method of Claim 10, and further comprising thereafter automatically discontinuing impartation of energy to said enamel after a selected interval.

14. The method of Claim 10, wherein said step of removably securing comprises removably installing an appliance including said energy source on the tooth.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein said step of removably installing the appliance on the tooth comprises removably installing the appliance such that the energy source contacts enamel of the tooth.

16. An apparatus for intra-oral stimulation of the trigeminal nerve, said apparatus comprising:

an energy source that imparts energy to a tooth to stimulate the trigeminal nerve; and

an attachment portion to secure said energy source in a mouth in proximity to the tooth, said attachment portion including a first leg to which said energy source is attached, a second leg, and a bridge portion spanning a width of the tooth to link said first leg and said second leg.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein:

said energy source is a transducer; and

said apparatus further comprises an oscillator coupled to said transducer to provide an electrical signal to said transducer.

18. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein said transducer comprises a wire coil.

19. The apparatus of Claim 16, said apparatus further including a timer that automatically discontinues provision of said electrical signal to said transducer following a selected interval of provision of said electrical signal.

20. An apparatus for intra-oral stimulation of the trigeminal nerve, said apparatus comprising:

an energy source; and

a transducer, coupled to the energy source, that imparts energy supplied by the energy source directly to intra-oral tissue to stimulate the trigeminal nerve.